



CITY COUNCIL

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COUNCILMEMBER DJOU: LIQUOR COMMISSION NEEDS MANAGEMENT CHANGE, NOT NAME CHANGE

Yesterday, after sentencing three more Honolulu Liquor Commission investigators to jail time, Federal Judge David Ezra again called upon the Honolulu City Council to look into this troubled agency. Earlier this week, the liquor commission suggested a way to fix its sad history of criminal misconduct and mismanagement is to change the agency's name.

Honolulu City Councilmember Charles K. Djou (Waikiki East Honolulu) reacted to these developments by stating, "The Honolulu Liquor Commission needs to clean out its management and clean up its act. The problem with the Honolulu Liquor Commission is its managers and operations, not its name. Chief Liquor Administrator Wally Weatherwax and Chief Liquor Inspector John Carroll preside over the most corrupt agency in Hawaii's history; they must be held accountable and fired immediately. The Honolulu City Council owes it to the people to take heed of Judge Ezra's admonishments. I hope my colleagues on the council will now finally join me and call for a management shake up of the Honolulu Liquor Commission."

Eight former liquor inspectors have now been sentenced to jail terms for bribery and corruption charges. Last month, the City Auditor criticized the management of the Honolulu Liquor Commission as "ineffective" and "inadequate." Since the release of the auditor's report, the Honolulu Liquor Commission had not made one single personnel change at the agency. To date, however, the Honolulu Liquor Commission has expended over \$50,000 in public relation consulting fees to help improve its image.

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